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ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETINGS IN CAIRO CONCLUDE

Denunciation of Intervention in Horn

NC291237Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1138 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 March--The Arab League of Council Political Committee has denounced foreign intervention in the Horn of Africa, called on the foreign states to withdraw their forces from the area and urged the countries of the area to settle their differences peacefully in accordance with the OAU and UN charters.

During its meeting, today, the committee decided to give material aid to Somalia for the relief of the western Somali refugees who fled as a result of the Ethiopian aggression.

The political committee resumed its meetings this morning at the foreign ministers' level to discuss foreign intervention in the Horn of Africa.

Riyad Holds Press Conference

NC291410Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 March--The Arab League Council will resume its meetings Saturday on the level of permanent delegates in order to complete the discussion of the topics on its agenda and after the council has completed its discussion of important political issues. This was stated by Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad at a press conference this afternoon. He said that this decision was made because the Arab foreign ministers have other engagements in their countries.

Riyad said that the discussion during today's council session dealt with outside contacts conducted by the Arab ministers in order to find a formula for future action.

Riyad declared that discussion of the PLO memorandum on reassessment of Arab-U.S. relations has been postponed until the next Arab foreign ministers meeting. This was done at the request of the organization itself, which wanted the subject raised before as many Arab foreign ministers as possible.

Asked about the Arab summit conference, Riyad said that there was agreement in principle to convene such a conference, but setting a date and place requires prior preparation. The committee to be formed under the chairmanship of President Numayri will first try to resolve Arab disputes, and then it will be easy to prepare for the summit conference.

Gulf Foreign Ministers Leave

NC291750Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1658 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 March--Three Arab foreign ministers left Cairo this afternoon after attending the meetings of the 69th session of the Arab League Council which ended today. The meetings will be resumed next Saturday on the level of permanent representatives.

The foreign ministers who left are Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal of Saudi Arabia, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj of the YAR and Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah of Bahrain.

Kuwaiti, Jordanian Ministers Depart

NC292025Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1922 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 March--Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir left Cairo today following a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he headed his country's delegation to the Arab League Council meetings.

The Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, Hasan Ibrahim, left Cairo for home tonight following a similar visit during which he headed the Jordanian delegation to the Arab League Council meetings.

'ARAFAT: ISRAELIS HAVE SUFFERED MILITARY DEFEAT

LD300855Y London THE GUARDIAN in English 30 Mar 78 p 13 LD

[Report on exclusive interview in Beirut with Yasir 'Arafat by David Hirst--date of interview not specified]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, looks as though he has hardly slept since the Israeli invasion of south Lebanon, but when I met him and his two top military aides, Abu Jihad, a co-founder of Fatah, and Abu Walid, the colonel who came over with the Al-Yarmuk Brigade from the Jordanian Army in black September 1970, he seemed to be in a buoyant, self-confident mood.

"They passed a resolution in the Knesset, calling for the annihilation of the PLO," he said. "Begin, Weizman, General Gur--they all said they were going to liquidate the terrorist bases. They have achieved complete military defeat. They wanted to get me. It seems that Begin might finish himself. We are stronger than before. As I told you last time, we are a tough nut to crack, the basic factor in the Middle East equation."

There is little doubt that this reflects the mood of the whole resistance movement. Indeed, if anything, morale is highest among the ordinary front-line fighters, for it is they who saw from close quarters how the Israelis fought. It is their belief that they face an enemy which, for all its skill and massive technological superiority, has made itself particularly vulnerable to the kind of warfare they are best able to wage.

It has, they feel, exposed its weakness: For fear of casualties, it is hamstrung by its refusal to take risks, which is precisely what the PLO is ready to do. They do not worry much about the seizure of territory. "They may occupy it, but they do not control it. In the old days we had to wait for days for an opportunity to strike, now we have targets all over the place."

At all levels, and not least the leadership, the Palestinians are wondering what the Israelis are going to do next. "Begin has put himself in a corner," claims 'Arafat. Will he get out of it with a humiliating withdrawal, or by enlarging the mistake which, in his view, he has already made. Will he go on to what 'Arafat calls "phase three?" "Phase one" was the occupation of a cordon sanitaire along Israel's northern frontier. "Phase two" was the occupation of everything south of the Litani River save the guerrilla-infested enclave of Tyre.

It would seem that, given the Palestinians' assessment of Israel's achievement so far, they have an interest in deliberately provoking phase three--an Israeli push beyond the Litani River, but 'Arafat clearly has no intention of ostentatiously doing so. He has everything to gain, in the way of Arab and international goodwill, by seeking to portray the Israelis as the aggressors. The Syrian regime, in particular, is desperately afraid that south Lebanon will be the trigger for the fifth Arab-Israeli war.

Any signs that the Palestinians are wantonly courting that danger will not endear them to President al-Asad, who has already demonstrated, during the Lebanese civil war, how far he is ready to go in disabling a movement which the Ba'thists were the first to sponsor. So far, the Palestinian leadership says, Syria has imposed no unwelcome restraints.

So 'Arafat agreed to receive General Emmanuel Erskine, the commander of UNIFIL, but there is good reason to doubt whether, as United Nations Secretary General Waldheim later announced,he assured him that the Palestinians would observe the cease-fire. "Erskine told us," 'Arafat said, "that the UN has not come to fight us, and we said we don't want to fight the UN." However, it was the UN's job to get the Israelis out of the south and he made it clear that, as they did so, the Palestinians were entitled to follow in their wake.

In the Palestinian view, this right was embodied in the 1969 Cairo Agreement--an international document which the UN had no authority to abrogate. If the UN sought to take up positions of which the guerrillas disapproved--and friction over the stationing of French troops in the vicinity of the Litani bridge just north of the Tyre enclave shows they might--it can be assumed that with all his Third World influence at the UN to set matters straight, ceasefire or not, 'Arafat clearly expected an escalation of guerrilla operations.

"I told General Erskine that when he followed the Israelis southward he would find our fighters behind their lines." As for incursions from north of the Litani, he asked: "Can guerrillas who crossed the Mediterranean (for the Tel Aviv highway raid) be prevented from crossing a little river?"

If the Palestinian leadership feels that it has put the main, Israeli enemy on the spot, it seems no less confident that it has--for the moment at least--neutralized what has often appeared to be the enemy in the rear: the Arab regimes. "We have aroused Arab and Palestinian support everywhere," said 'Arafat, "and no Arab ruler can strike against us after we put up such a fight. There is a new spirit in the area."

Certainly, it has not been lost on Arab, and especially Palestinian, public opinion that 'Arafat's irregulars held up a good portion of the Israeli army for longer than Egypt did in 1956, or than Egypt, Syria and Jordan did in 1967. In Jordan and Syria there have been pro-PLO demonstrations which quickly turned into protests against Husayn and Al-Asad's failure to lift a finger on the Palestinians' behalf.

In Jordan, according to Palestinian newspapers, refugees surged out of their camps in the first real show of Palestinian self-assertion since the PLO was driven from the country seven years ago.

Most significant perhaps, guerrillas from 'Arafat down report a wave of sympathy and admiration from the Syrian Army. These are portents which regimes opposed to any form of popular self-exrpession cannot afford to ignore, and their efforts to suppress them were matched by compensating propitiatory gestures, such as the registration of volunteers in Jordan, and Syrian permission for the rival Iraqi Ba'thists to dispatch arms and men to the south Lebanon. Of course, such gestures were a hollow substitute for the full-blooded intervention which the demonstrators wanted, but they are a measure of the embarrassment which, if the worse came to the worse, 'Arafat could exploit against the regimes.

And even As-Sadat is far from immune. It is with unalloyed delight that PLO leaders read out passages from one of Cairo's newly authorized "opposition" newspapers. "Look at this," said 'Arafat, pointing to a cartoon in AL-AHLI, mouthpiece of the small but influential leftwing party in the National Assembly--which mocked President As-Sadat's depiction of Palestinians as nightclub addicts. The cartoon portrayed a Palestinian guerrilla twisting an Israeli gun barrel with his bare arms. The caption read: "Funny people, these guerrillas who go to cabarets and fight like this."

WAFA SAYS SYRIA FACILITATES ENTRY OF AID TO LEBANON

JN292138Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, has reported a statement by a responsible information source in the Palestinian revolution. The statement says:

There has been much talk recently about the aid the Palestinian revolution has received or is receiving from certain Arab brothers, particularly during and after the brutal terrorist Zionist aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian people in southern Lebanon.

The source said: To put an end to argument about this matter and to stop rumors, particularly concerning the stand of the brothers in Syria toward the entry of aid via Syria, we would like to stress that the fraternal Syrian authorities have allowed and are allowing the entry of all aid to the Palestinian revolution across Syrian territory. The entry of this aid is facilitated.

CONFERENCE OF ARAB TOURISM MINISTERS OPENS IN AMMAN

JN271330Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has deputized Prime Minister Mudar Badran to open the Arab ministers of tourism conference, which started its 2-day session today.

Minister of Tourism and chairman of the conference Ghalib Barakat delivered the opening speech. He thanked His Majesty King Husayn for patronizing the conference and added that the tourism industry in the Arab world is becoming more important and should be further promoted.

Participating in the conference are delegations of 17 Arab countries as well as the Federation of Arab Travel and Tourist Associations, the Arab Air Carrier Organization, Arab hotel associations, the Arab Tourism Union and the Arab League.

The opening session was attended by the cabinet ministers and Arab ambassadors in Amman.

BAHRAIN

UAE INFORMATION MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

JN281220Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1113 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 28 March--Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid, minister of information and culture of the United Arab Emirates, arrived here this morning on a visit of several days to the State of Bahrain at the invitation of Tariq 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, information minister of Bahrain. During the visit the UAE minister will hold talks with the Bahrain minister of information on strengthening bilateral relations in the information field. 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad welcomed the UAE minister at the airport on his arrival.

Delivers Message

JN291705Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1345 GMT 29 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 29 March--Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid Al Nuhayyan, the UAE minister of information and culture, has declared that he had conveyed to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, a letter from his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the UAE, containing his greetings to Bahrain--government and people--and his wishes for Bahrain's continued progress and prosperity.

Speaking to the GULF NEWS AGENCY after hiss meeting with his highness the amir, Shaykh Ahmad said that during this meeting the two sides reviewed the existing strong relations between the two countries and the means of developing them in all fields. Shaykh Ahmad said that His Highness Shaykh 'Isa has stressed the importance of mutual visits between brothers and their benefit to the peoples of the two fraternal countries.

The UAE information and culture minister added: I also had the honor to meet with Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini prime minister, and discussed with him various aspects of cooperation between Bahrain and the UAE in various fields, especially in the information field. Speaking about his meeting with Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, the heir apparent and defense minister, Shaykh Ahmad said that the meeting was fruitful and constructive. There was an exchange of viewpoints on matters of mutual interest.

Concluding his statement, Shaykh Ahmad praised the existing strong relations between Bahrain and the UAE. He expressed the hope for closer ties and more fruitful cooperation between the two countries, thanks to the guidelines of the two leaders, his highness the amir of Bahrain and his highness the president of the UAE.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM ON JORDAN'S REACTION TO ATTACK ON LEBANON

LD291834Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 27 Mar 78 p 20 LD

[Excerpts] Amman--AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM--The Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon was a shock for all the Arabs, but it was more painful and arousing for Jordan, which is closest to the Palestinian problem, since the Palestinians constitute more than half of the population of Jordan.

What were the reactions in Jordan?

On the first day of the attack, leaders of Jordanian trade unions held a meeting and issued a statement denouncing Arab silence over what is happening. The statement called for striking at U.S. interests in the area, mobilizing the Arab armed forces, which are being prevented from resisting the aggression, placing Arab arms stockpiles at the service of the battle and rejecting the proposed solutions and initiatives. The statement also called for using Arab oil and funds as a political and economic weapon in the confrontation. The statement asserted that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and it called for volunteers to fight along with the Palestinian resistance and for financial and material contributions and blood donations.

The Jordanian papers published this statement.

The trade unions also called for a meeting of all the nationalist forces and representatives of all the popular sectors and parties which, although they are officially proscribed, in fact exist.

The meeting was attended by some 200 political personalities representing all political trends. Many speeches were delivered denouncing aggression and repudiating the attitude of the Arab countries. At the end of the meeting it was agreed to issue a statement and form a permanent central committee consisting of 30 persons who will organize the collection of contributions and the enlistment of volunteers and will act as a liaison with the Jordanian Government and other Arab governments.

But the statement of the conferees was not published in the Jordanian papers on the following day because of a government decision to this effect. The statement urged the Arab nation to stand up and repel the Israeli invasion regardless of the cost and called on the Arab masses to move rapidly and effectively "in order to force the Arab governments" to resist this aggression.

At the first meeting of the 30-man central committee it was decided to form a delegation in order to meet with King Husayn.

At the meeting, King Husayn first spoke about the dangers menacing Jordan and about definite information that Israel is preparing to invade northern Jordan in order to place Syria in a pincer after having occupied southern Lebanon. He also spoke about general mobilization in Israel, including the rationing of fuel.

The king said that, in view of the aggression, the Arab armed forces should have intervened but that there were certain risks as well as risks involving the question of arms.

With regard to the Jordanian armed forces, he said that they lacked an adequate air cover and he complained of the nonfulfillment of Arab pledges to Jordan in this regard.

The representatives of the national movements spoke about the need to fill the political vacuum as a first step and the need to allow the popular masses to participate in the battle.

King Husayn affirmed that he had given orders to initiate the enlistment of volunteers and the collection of contributions and stressed that Jordan will contribute to the battle with everything available to it.

FOREIGN MINISTER OF AFGHANISTAN ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD261910Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] The foreign minister of Afghanistan, Wahid Abdollah, arrived in Kuwait this afternoon.

QATAR

MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH INDIAN AMBASSADOR

JN2613535Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1337 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 26 March--Qatari Minister of Agriculture and Industry Shaykh Faysal ibn Sami Al Thani met here today with the Indian Ambassador to Qatar Mr Krishan Mohal Lal. During the meeting the two sides reviewed several topics, foremost of which was that of technical training in all agricultural fields. It was mentioned that the Indian ambassador had conveyed to Shaykh Faysal ibn Sami Al Thani an invitation from the Indian minister of agriculture to visit India at an appropriate time.

MALI JUSTICE MINISTER ARRIVES IN DOHA FOR VISIT

NC2519417Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 25 March--Mamadou Sanogo, the justice minister and member of the National Liberation Military Committee of the Republic of Mali, arrived in Doha this evening at the head of a delegation for a 3-day visit to the State of Qatar.

Leaves Qatar 28 March

JN2809387Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 28 March--Lt Col Mamadou Sanogo, Mali justice minister and member of the National Liberation Front, and the delegation accompanying him left Doha for home this morning. The Mali minister was seen off by Khalid Muhammad al-Mani, Qatar's public health minister, and the Mali ambassador to Qatar. Sanogo arrived in Doha last Saturday on an official visit, during which he delivered a message to His Highness Shaykh Khalifa ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, from Mali President Col Moussa Traore, dealing with strengthening relations between the two countries and Arab-African cooperation.

SAUDI ARABIA

NOUIRA'S VISIT CHARACTERIZED AS 'VERY POSITIVE'

LD3000447Y Tunis TAP in French 1500 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Jidda--Prime Minister Hedi Nouira's official visit to Saudi Arabia ended today. This visit, termed "very positive" by both sides, was marked by a spirit of fraternity and friendship. Mr Hedi Nouira and the delegation accompanying him were received by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at his residence in the Sammane region in the north of the kingdom. During the visit Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, and Mr Mustapha Zaanouni signed an agreement for a loan financing the construction of the Sidisaad Dam on the Oued Zeroud in the Kairouan region. Tunisian and Saudi views on all subjects raised during the visit, and notably the Palestinian cause and the Middle East problem, were completely identical. The two sides agreed on the need to strengthen inter-Arab links and to further tighten Arab ranks, something which is likely to serve the common cause of the Arab countries and allow them to surmount the difficulties which have been exacerbated recently, following the Israeli military intervention in southern Lebanon and the occupation of a part of this country's territory. The two sides stressed the need to avoid anything likely to dislocate the Arab ranks and to affect the solidarity of the Arab nation.

Joint Communique Issued

LD291316Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Tunisia have declared that their views are identical with regard to present-day problems. The two countries attach importance to the open Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon and the grave confrontation of this aggression by the Palestinian fighters for the cause of God. This is stated in the joint communique released today on the results of the visit of Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira to Saudi Arabia from 26-29 March and his talks with His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister. Following is the text of the communique:

At the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the exalted crown prince and deputy prime minister, Tunisian Prime Minister Mr Hedi Nouira paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 26-29 March 1978. The Tunisian prime minister was accompanied by: Chedli Klibi, minister of cultural affairs; Mustapha Zaanouni, planning minister; and by a number of important senior civil servants and experts from various sectors.

The Tunisian prime minister had a meeting with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and conveyed to him a message from his brother His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, which contained expressions of appreciation and cordiality and sincerest wishes for continued good health and success.

Prime Minister Hedi Nouira also had a cordial meeting with Prince Fahd as soon as the Tunisian delegation arrived in Riyadh. The prime minister also paid a cordial visit on His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 2nd deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard.

An important working meeting was held at Al-Madhar Palace on Sunday evening, 25 March 1978. The meeting lasted over 2 hours and was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 2nd deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Excellency Rashad Fir'awn, special adviser to his majesty the king; His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, finance and national economy minister; His Excellency Abd ar-Rahman al-'Umran, Saudi ambassador to Tunisia.

On the Tunisian side the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Nouira; Mr Chedli Klibi, minister of cultural affairs; Mr Mustapha Zaanouni, minister of planning; and Mr Moussa Rouissi, Tunisian ambassador to Saudi Arabia. During the meeting there was a review of bilateral relations between the two countries. The two sides agreed that these relations are excellent, in line with the mutual trust, close solidarity and faith in the same values and principles between the two countries. The two sides have agreed to expand the scope of cooperation between them in various fields and have agreed on the participation of the kingdom in a number of development projects in Tunisia.

A review of the most important current problems also took place during the meeting. The two sides noted the complete identity of their views in this respect.

They attached particular importance to the open Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon and to the brave confrontation of this aggression put up firmly and steadfastly by the Palestinian fighters for God.

Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira has expressed to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, his thanks and gratitude for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to him by the Government of Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Nouira extended an official invitation to His Royal Highness Prince Fahd to visit Tunisia; the invitation was accepted, and his royal highness will fix a date for the visit later, God willing.

ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH TAIWAN

For a Taipei CNA account of the economic and technical cooperation agreements reached at the third conference of the Sino-Saudi Permanent Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation held in Taipei from 22 to 27 March, see the Republic of China section of the 30 March Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

UAE

PAPERS WARN AGAINST DISARMING PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

JN3010147 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 March--The newspaper AL-WAHDAH reports here today that disarming the Palestinian resistance would mean liquidating its presence in southern Lebanon and achieving the enemy's large goal--the disavowal of the Palestinian people's existence. The paper warns against this liquidationist step. It asserts that this step would mean the end of the Palestinian figure on the map of struggle in the Arab area.

The newspaper AL-WATHBAH says this step is bound to serve the interests of the Zionist enemy whose encroachments are not only aimed against the Palestinians but also against all the Arab revolutionary forces which reject the logic of defeatism and capitulation.

Reports indicated yesterday that the Syrian deterrent forces will collect the arms from the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement within 1 month from now.

PRESIDENT, ENVOY CONFER ON RELATIONS WITH OMAN

JN291400Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 March--Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the UAE, here today received 'Umar az-Zawawi, adviser to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman. The two sides discussed the means of strengthening bilateral relations and reviewed matters of mutual interest to both countries. The meeting was attended by the chief of the presidential office and the minister of foreign affairs in the UAE.

AMERICAN-ARAB FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION RECEIVED

NC291755Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Dubayy, 29 March--The deputy president of the UAE and the ruler of Dubai, Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, today received the American-Arab friendship council delegation which is currently visiting the UAE. The delegation is headed by North Carolina Governor James Hunt.

The head of the American delegation said after the meeting, which was also attended by UAE defense minister Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, that the aim of the visit is to discuss ways to strengthen friendship between the American and Arab peoples. Later, Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum met with the trade section of the American-Arab friendship council delegation. They discussed the bilateral relations between the United States and the UAE.

The American-Arab friendship council delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi 2 days ago on a 3-day visit to the UAE. The visit comes within the framework of the tour the delegation is making of a number of countries in the area to discuss the relations of friendship between the United States and the area's countries and to increase cultural and trade contacts between them.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTRY MAKES STATEMENT ON ARAB LEAGUE

JN291337Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Mar 78 JN

[Text] A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has stated the following: Our delegation that is taking part in the Arab foreign ministers conference within the ordinary session of the Arab League Council has played an effective role, prompted by a sense of national responsibility, during the council meetings through cooperation with the other brotherly Arab delegations.

This is clear from the resolutions adopted by the League Council calling for the necessity to hold an urgent Arab summit conference and to form an Arab solidarity committee at the highest level. Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, Sudanese vice president and foreign minister and chairman of the current league session, was asked to communicate to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri the desire of the council that he head this committee.

The spokesman said that the adoption of such important resolutions during this session clearly confirms the YAR's views, which are based on the guidelines of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, the chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, on the unity of Arab ranks and the need to preserve the higher Arab national interests.

The spokesman added: The convening of an Arab summit conference will strengthen Arab solidarity, patch up Arab differences and pool Arab resources against Israel's aggressive plans in the area. The spokesman concluded: The YAR, which has exerted and continues to exert sincere efforts in this respect by every means possible, hopes that these efforts, along with the efforts exerted by the other Arab states, will bring about the convocation of an Arab summit conference that will achieve the unity of Arab ranks and the formulation of a unified Arab national strategy. The YAR will continue its contacts with the other fraternal Arab states to eliminate any obstacles preventing their rapprochement, so that Arab resources will be pooled against the impending dangers.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN

NC301257Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat at noon today received Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. The meeting lasted for 2 hours. It was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi and an adviser of the Israeli defense minister. 'Ezer Weizman arrived at 1200 today to submit a report on the situation to the president. He will report on the results of the meeting to the Israeli Cabinet when it meets Sunday after his return to Israel.

The official spokesman at the president's office has stated that the talks dealt with southern Lebanon and that 'Ezer Weizman assured President as-Sadat that the Israeli forces will not stay in southern Lebanon 1 minute after the arrival of the UN forces is completed. He affirmed this position to the president beyond any doubt.

As for other topics, the official at the president's office said that no progress was achieved on the common issue and that the situation remains unchanged.

On the prevailing impression that the meeting between President as-Sadat and 'Ezer Weizman means the resumption of the meetings of the Political and Military committees, the official spokesman said: This is not true. The work of these two committees was halted and will not be resumed until a basis is achieved for resuming the talks in these committees.

GHURBAL GIVES AS-SADAT LETTER FROM CARTER

NC291620Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat today received the Egyptian ambassador to the United States, Dr Ashraf Ghurbal. The radio correspondent has learned that Dr Ashraf Ghurbal handed his excellency the president a letter from U.S. President Jimmy Carter on the present state of affairs in connection with the Middle East crisis.

His excellency the president also received Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, the Sudanese vice president, who is now attending the meetings of the Arab League ministerial conference.

CAIRO RADIO ASSAILS BEGIN KNESSET SPEECH

NC291615Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "Menahem Begin Continues His Antipeace Policy"]

[Excerpts] We had not actually been expecting Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's hardline policy or his stands conflicting with international legitimacy to change overnight. However, in his speech to the Knesset today, the Israeli prime minister clearly refused to show any flexibility compatible with his government's desire to see the peace efforts continuing.

According to news reports, the Israeli prime minister based his stand on his very old argument to the effect that Security Council Resolution 242 does not commit Israel to total withdrawal. In this respect, Begin attacked what he calls the Egyptian interpretation of the resolution.

The Israeli prime minister justified his claim about drawing a dividing line between the preamble to the resolution and its other provisions by reiterating his very old allegation that the 5 June 1967 aggression against the Arab states was, in his opinion, a defensive war. This conclusion gives Israel, in Begin's view, the right to retain some parts of the Arab land under Israeli sovereignty.

As for the rejection of any discussion about granting the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip the right to self-determination, the Israel prime minister based his argument on the allegation this action would mean the emergence of a Palestinian state in these two areas, which consequently--in Begin's view--would threaten Israeli security.

Thus, we realize that Mr Begin has not budged an inch from that position which had led to the halting of the work of the Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee and to the blocking of the issuance of a declaration of principles.

If observers ask how the Israeli prime minister can reconcile this stand with his announcement that he desires to continue the peace efforts, Begin has an even more contradictory answer in his appeal in his statement to the Knesset for the resumption of the negotiations, not the changing of Israeli policy, which is making it impossible for the negotiators to achieve anything. The whole world has discovered with us that Israel still adheres to the objectives of the original Zionist plan for the establishment of greater Israel at the expense of Arab territory, although the declared excuses are security at one time and devious interpretations of UN resolutions at other times.

The present Israeli policy is, in fact, far removed from the path to real peace. It would not be an exaggeration if we were to say that this policy is against peace itself, unless we are talking about Israel's brand of peace. In this respect, one cannot depend on the enthusiastic, rhetorical utterances about peace and the warm desire to achieve it--and the Israeli prime minister has become famous for such utterances.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM: BEGIN IS 'OBSTACLE' TO PEACE

LD291256Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 25 Mar 78 p 8 LD

[Mustafa Amin article: "May God Long Preserve Mr Begin!"]

[Excerpts] The world has begun to see that the presence of Menahem Begin as Israeli prime minister is an obstacle to peace and that Israel must choose between Begin and peace.

Many imagined that the coming of Begin to power was a disaster for the Arabs whereas we saw it as a blessing for them and a curse on Israel. Had it not been for his intransigence, obstinacy and fanaticism world opinion would still have been believing that we are the ferocious animal that wants to drive Israel into the sea and that Israel is the innocent baby whom the animal wants to devour. Had it not been for Begin the Americans would not have shed the dark veil that covered their eyes for 30 years and would not have realized that their pampered child now has claws and teeth and that instead of feeding on milk it wants to feed on the land of other peoples. Had it not been for Begin the Americans would not have realized that the head of the Israeli Government wants to put the United States in financial difficulties, expose the Western economy to bankruptcy and expose the whole world to a nuclear war so that he can retain a few settlements.

Begin's mistake was that, as a veteran terrorist, he wanted to terrorize the U.S. President. Through the Israeli attack on Lebanon, Begin wanted to gain more ground in the White House, but instead he lost whatever ground he had. For the first time we began hearing a discussion on how to punish Israel for refusing to comply with UN resolutions.

The U.S. State Department confirmed that the situation is now being examined so as to determined whether Israel used U.S. weapons in its invasion of Lebanon because U.S. laws prohibit the use of U.S. weapons by one state against another except in self-defense.

Diplomatic sources say that the Zionists are behind the campaign against the U.S. economy which has led to the decline of the dollar. They also say that some U.S. senators who support Begin told him that he was playing with fire by waging a campaign against the U.S. President and trying to bring him down.

Senior officials in the White House began wondering who is running U.S. foreign policy, whether it was the U.S. President or the head of the Israeli Government.

It is ironic that the primary reason for Begin's visit to the United States was to stop the U.S. arms deal with Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Instead, the situation was reversed and he heard threats to halt all U.S. arms supplies to Israel if it did not stop using such arms in killing women and children and invading a friendly state, Lebanon.

When Begin felt that he was cornered he thought of taking the opportunity of his meeting with President Carter in the White House to start a false rumor about the assassination of President as-Sadat in Cairo.

It has been established that the rumor was started in New York by some Zionists. The purpose of this rumor by Begin was to put pressure on Carter and to make him believe during the meeting that Egypt was unstable, that As-Sadat's initiative was finished and that Israel was justified in rejecting Arab demands because it wanted to insure its security in the midst of this bloody vicious circle.

But the rumor was reported to Carter during the meeting only to be denied a minute later.

Some knowledgeable people say that this rumor has harmed Israel and benefitted Egypt. Many officials who believed that the Middle East problem could be solved slowly now realize that the situation in the Middle East is not only a menace to peace in the area but also to the whole world.

AL-AKHBAR STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF ARAB SOLIDARITY

NC300817Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the Arab League Council decision, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that the council has devoted all its attention to the question of Arab solidarity, putting it first on its agenda. Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has told the council that the Arab nation is now facing one of the most dangerous situations in its existence and can only overcome the situation by eliminating differences. This statement was approved by the Arab League Council.

AL-AKHBAR says that Arab solidarity is the aim of every Arab who is loyal to his Arabism and who appreciates the responsibility of joint Arab action for the Arab nation, not only in relation to political questions but also to social and economic questions and everything leading to development and progress so that the Arab nation may resume its historic role in building culture and serving mankind.

The question being asked is whether it will be possible to eliminate Arab differences and create a suitable climate for achieving Arab solidarity as decided by the Arab League Council. Those asking this question are pessimistic about the achievement of solidarity in view of the fabricated differences among the Arab states concerning general and private affairs and concerning events taking place both inside and outside the Arab area. Such differences are not confined to arguments, discussions or exchanges of views. They extend to the exchange of accusations and insults, which cannot be acceptable if there is to be Arab solidarity and fraternity.

The paper adds: Those who are pessimistic about Arab solidarity and the elimination of Arab differences are looking at things superficially. If they look deeper they will discover that the situation is not so difficult and that Arab solidarity is founded on a solid base that cannot be affected by personal differences and considerations. This was affirmed by President as-Sadat when he said that Arab solidarity is strong and the differences are only family differences. This is natural. Moreover, the current disagreements among the Arab states are not new. They have come up before and probably were more violent. In the face of danger, however, Arab solidarity will resolve such differences. The responsibility of Arab solidarity toward the major Arab cause is well known to all the Arab people throughout the Arab homeland. No Arab ruler, regardless of his personal differences, can evade the responsibility of joint Arab action for the cause of the Arab nation.

AL-AKHBAR says: Arab solidarity is committed to the major Arab cause. Proceeding from its historic responsibility to this cause, Egypt continues to consolidate Arab solidarity so that it will not be affected by personal differences. Egypt, therefore, blesses the efforts of the Arab League to remove such differences and to reveal Arab solidarity in its splendid reality and true values.

GHALI DISCUSSES OAU SUMMIT WITH BURUNDI MINISTER

NC291955Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has met with the foreign minister of Burundi. During the meeting, they discussed international issues of interest to the two countries and subjects related to the OAU summit conference scheduled to be convened in Khartoum. The discussion also touched on the problems facing the African Continent, such as the Ethiopian-Somali conflict. Dr Ghali explained Egypt's viewpoint on the developments of the Middle East crisis and the results of the efforts which are being exerted to find a solution to the problem.

CHIEF OF STAFF RETURNS FROM VISIT TO FRONT

NC291950Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1908 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 March--The armed forces chief of staff, Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, returned to Cairo this afternoon after spending 4 days at the front, where he inspected the forces and attended some training exercises. The chief of staff has praised the high degree of the forces' preparedness and their outstanding competency in carrying out their combat duties.

LEBANESE PSP LEADER JUNBLATT ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN291918Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 March--Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive and Socialist Party [PSP] arrived here tonight on a visit of several days to Iraq. Junblatt said that he will hold meetings and consultations with Iraqi officials dealing with the latest developments in the Arab region, particularly the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

Junblatt was received at Baghdad International Airport by Dr 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; Dr al-Fattah al-Yasin, member of the Revolution Command Council and member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; and several party and state officials.

LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL ARRIVES

JN251902Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1846 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--Nadim 'Abd as-Samad, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee, arrived here this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq. The secretary general stated that he will hold talks with officials of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command dealing with the dangerous stage through which Lebanon is passing in the aftermath of the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

He expressed the thanks of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement to Iraq for its effective support of the nationalist movement in Lebanon in the face of Zionist occupation. He further said that this support has played an important role in strengthening the steadfastness of the Lebanese and Palestinian masses against the Zionist invaders.

CULTURE MINISTER MEETS WITH BULGARIAN OFFICIAL

JN291323Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 29 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 March--Karim Mahmud Shintaf, minister of culture and arts, today met with the delegation of the Bulgarian National Committee for the Defense of Peace headed by Georgi Dimitrov-Goshkin, chairman of the committee and member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee. During the meeting they discussed cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries and the role of the cultural movement in the service of world peace.

IRANIAN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT LEAVES BAGHDAD

JN251017Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--A Riazi, president of the Iranian National Consultative Assembly, left Baghdad this morning following an official 4-day visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, Riazi expressed his appreciation for Iraq's services and care for Iranian tourists visiting the holy places. He said that his visit to Iraq enabled him to familiarize himself with the progress being made in the industrial and construction fields.

Riazi was seen off at Baghdad International Airport by 'Izzat Ibrahim, member of the Revolution Command Council and interior minister, a number of officials and the Iranian ambassador in Baghdad.

CABINET HOLDS MEETING; AL-HUSS MEETS OFFICIALS

NC291330Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] His Excellency the President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis presided over the weekly cabinet meeting which began at 1045 today. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers attended. Earlier, his excellency the president held a meeting at 0915 which was attended by the prime minister. Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Education Dr as'Ad Rizq joined the meeting later.

The cabinet meeting lasted until 1430. After the meeting Cabinet Secretary General Dr 'Umar al-Musayki said: The cabinet discussed a number of general questions and heard reports by the ministers who are members of the ministerial committee for the relief of the evacuees from the southern villages regarding the services and aid extended to them and ways of securing their return to the south. The cabinet then discussed the items on its agenda and adopted appropriate decisions.

MINISTERS MAKE STATEMENTS AFTER CABINET MEETING

Al-Huss Comments

NC291640Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] After the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made the following statement: The governor of the south has been directed to call all officials in the southern area to report to duty in order to facilitate the affairs of the citizens there and also to facilitate the return of the evacuees to the area.

Asked whether other arrangements have been made to restore the various utilities, Prime Minister al-Huss answered: Work is actively proceeding in this direction. Electric power has been restored to many parts of Tyre. Water will be supplied soon. Prime Minister al-Huss added: The public works minister will soon initiate road repairs. The posts, telegraphs and telephones minister has been told to allocate a workshop for the Tyre area to restore the system there.

Butrus Comments

NC291641Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Following the weekly cabinet meeting which was held today under the chairmanship of President Ilyas Sarkis and in the presence of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign, Expatriates and Defense Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus said: We have discussed the question of relief. I have nothing new to report about new operations over the past 24 hours. I hope there will be no operations. I also hope that nothing will happen. Anyhow, we will not hesitate to do everything within our own capabilities. Asked whether Lebanon has been officially notified about the Arab League Council's decision extending the mandate of the Arab deterrent forces, Minister Butrus said: No. We received a short report that the mandate of the Arab deterrent forces has been extended. I have not yet received any clarifications but I might receive such clarifications this afternoon.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON SITUATION

JN291600Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 29 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 29 March--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has called for total mobilization of all manpower potentials and nationalist resources to confront the Zionist enemy who is occupying a part of the homeland and threatening to occupy other parts. The movement called on all the Arab national regimes and forces and other friendly forces in the world to come to the aid of the Lebanese people in their struggle to liberate their soil, defend their homeland and safeguard their destiny.

At a press conference held here today, the Central Political Council of the Nationalist Movement warned that what the homeland is being exposed to today cannot be confronted with memos, trickery or concessions. The council said that any response to the logic of conditions put by the enemy is tantamount to falling into the abyss of total capitulation to the scheme which aims at destroying Lebanon. The only legitimate resolve is that of resisting the occupation.

A statement distributed by the political council warned against the voices which, exploiting the atmosphere of tolerance in the nationalist arena, are today calling in the name of wisdom and reason for dealing with the occupation and implementing its terms, and also calling for the removal of the nationalist presence on the pretext that this would facilitate the Israeli withdrawal. The statement said that these voices are playing a dangerous game, whose pretexts are unacceptable under all circumstances. The Lebanese nationalists believe that no appeal is above that of fighting against occupation.

The statement called on the Lebanese authority to adopt a clear and categorical stand embodying its national responsibility toward the land and the people by facilitating the measures for total national mobilization against the enemy through a wide Arab and international political campaign for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution, stipulating total Israeli withdrawal and providing for the deployment of the UN forces in positions on the border with occupied Palestine. The statement said that the legitimacy of the authority will be measured by the degree of its commitment to the decision for firm confrontation of the Zionist occupation.

The statement further said: We are facing today the most dangerous chapter of the battle in defense of Lebanon's unity and Arabism. Our support for the official authority in the previous period always proceeded from a basic yardstick; namely the degree to which this authority performed the role which justifies its existence--its role of seeking to restore Lebanon's unity and safeguard its Arabism.

The statement announced that the enemy is seeking to transform his occupation into a fait accompli under the pretext that he is facing resistance, which is a legitimate right of the Lebanese people, and he is collaborating with traiter Sa'd Haddad to form a cover inside the country under the name of the army of the south.

Referring to the UN forces in southern Lebanon, the statement affirmed that the mission of these forces seems remote from the essence of the UN Security Council resolution. Instead of advancing to the lines of contact with the Zionist occupation, these forces are taking positions in areas not reached by the occupation; and instead of supervising an Israeli withdrawal, they are asking for the evacuation of the nationalists from their positions.

Furthermore, these forces are deploying in the unoccupied Lebanese territories and opening a passage linking occupied Palestine with the Lebanese area of Jazzin and other areas under the control of the isolationists.

The statement referred to the growing size of the French forces; the role of these forces seems closer to a form of internal deterrence than that of an international police.

The statement further said that, regarding all this, the Lebanese authority is taking a stand surrounded by more than one question mark, whether concerning the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution or the confrontation of the isolationist calls for the formation of an army in the south, subservient to the Israeli army, or the confrontation of the consequences of social war.

The statement touched on the stand of the Lebanese rightist front. It said that this stand proceeds from dealing with the Israeli occupation as a force to impose the terms and schemes of the right and strike against the nationalist ranks. The statement said that the front [presumably the rightist front] wants to drop the demand for Israeli withdrawal from the list of immediate concerns under the claim that what is important is opening the Palestinian file.

The statement concluded that all this reveals the big size of the conspiracy to turn Lebanon into a racist sectarian entity which the nation is facing today.

SARKIS MEETS BUTRUS, RECEIVES CUBAN ENVOY

NC301122Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting at 0930 today which was attended by Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus. At 1000, in the presence of Minister Butrus, President Sarkis received the credentials of Alberto Velazco San Jose, the new Cuban ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Lebanon.

JOINT COMMAND MEETS, DISCUSSES SITUATION IN SOUTH

JN301135Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1123 GMT 30 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 30 March--The joint command of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement met last night to review the developments in the political, military and security situation in light of the continued Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. The joint command adopted several decisions to insure the return of evacuees to their villages in southern Lebanon. The discussions also revolved around the presence of the UN interim force in Lebanon and around the adequate means to force the Zionist enemy forces to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

NEW FRENCH UNIT ARRIVES IN BEIRUT TO JOIN UNIFIL

NC291308Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A new French unit consisting of 72 soldiers arrived in Beirut this morning to join the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL]. With the arrival of this unit, there are now 580 French soldiers in Lebanon. Other French units and equipment are expected to arrive beginning 1 April. The other UN forces continue to take up positions in places scheduled for them in accordance with the arrangements which have been made.

FRENCH UN FORCE REPORTEDLY FACING DIFFICULTIES

NC300907Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Another day of relative calm prevailed in southern Lebanon while the UN forces continued to consolidate their positions at assigned points. The UN forces are distributed as follows: the Swedish contingent on Al-Khardali Bridge and in Rashayya al-Fukhkhar; the Iranians on Al-Qa'qa'iyat Bridge and the French near Al-Qasimiyah Bridge. Hence, the three bridges on the Litani River are distributed among three UN contingents. The French force, however, is meeting some difficulties from Israel and the Palestinians alike in taking up position in Dayr Qanun and Al-Qasimiyah.

INA: ISRAELIS PREVENT UNIFIL FROM TAKING POSITION

JN291412Y Bahgdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 29 March--The forces of the Zionist enemy have prevented the UN forces operating in southern Lebanon from taking positions in Dayr Qanun township, south of Tyre. The INA correspondent in the south reports that the UN force which moved this morning to take a position in the township was forced to withdraw and deploy on the township crossroads, where it erected a checkpoint. The correspondent further reports that a second UN force today occupied the Ra's al-'Ayn triangle, south of Tyre, several kilometers from the Zionist forces.

The correspondent adds that enemy planes today overflew Tyre. Enemy artillery opened fire on the nationalist positions on the Al-'Abbasiyah-Al-Bazuriyah axis in the western coastal sector.

SYRIAN WHEAT SHIPMENT ARRIVES IN LEBANON 29 MARCH

NC291334Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Arab deterrent forces command has issued the following communique: Forty trucks carrying wheat as aid from the Syrian Arab Republic to Lebanon entered the country via Al-Masna' today. More convoys carrying wheat will be arriving in the next few days. The total aid amounts to more than 7,000 tons.

SOUTHERN LEBANESE REFUGEES REMAINING IN BEIRUT

TA300954Y Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT 30 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, March 30 (AFP)--Most of the tens of thousands of southern Lebanese who took refuge in this capital have not yet gone back to their homes. A small return flow started southward a week ago after Israel unilaterally proclaimed a cease-fire in southern Lebanon. But the retaliation ultimatum by Israeli Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur on Monday to Palestinian guerrillas, whom he accused of continued shooting, increased uncertainty and discouraged the would-be returnees. Besides, many refugees from villages occupied by Israel fear the Israelis would not let them flee again in case of new fighting.

Other refugees from the Palestinina-occupied zone north of the Israeli lines hardly hope to go home soon. As long as the fedayeen occupy their town, the Israelis will not leave them alone, these refugees say. The tension caused by the forcible eviction of Beirut residents to free flats for refugees has subsided since the situation has "stabilized," so to speak. There are still a few incidents.

On Tuesday, unidentified armed men chased an exiled Syrian leader from his apartment in order to shelter refugees. Efforts of the Lebanese Government and Red Cross to shelter refugees on camp sites have been counteracted by bad weather. Rain the last few days has turned some refugee centers into muddy bogs. This has inspired many refugees to seek something drier than a tent. Apartments seem all the more attractive since southern Lebanon may remain a danger zone for some time.

Many volunteers, mainly students, are helping at relief centers. They distribute tens of thousands of blankets and food rations daily. Lebanese authorities are allocating aid sent from all over the world. The absence of shooting yesterday throughout southern Lebanon caused many displaced people to say they would risk going home if the area remained quiet. Deployment of more United Nations troops might also influence their decision to return.

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS SITUATION CALM IN SOUTH

NC3006391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Calm prevailed in the south yesterday. No firing or shelling incidents were reported.

Despite the regrettable incident in which a Swedish officer was killed and another wounded when a mine exploded under their car, the UN forces continued to take up their positions in the assigned areas. The Iranian contingent established a fixed position on the Qa'qa'iyat Bridge. The Swedish contingent continued to consolidate its position on Al-Khardali Bridge. The French contingent continued to patrol the coastal line from the (?Al-'Izziyah) crossroad to Al-Qasimiyah Bridge.

The press attache of the French contingent says that negotiations are underway to take over the Al-Qasimiyah Bridge, the last bridge still not in UN hands.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE RECEIVES SFRY'S VRHOVEC

LD271822Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1644 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, 27 March, TANJUG--Algerian President Houari Boumediene has received Yugoslav League of Communists Presidency member Josip Vrhovec in Algeria as Yugoslav President Tito's special envoy, who delivered Tito's personal message to the Algerian president. The ensuing talk, which passed in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, focused on current questions regarding international relations, such as the Middle East crisis and the situation in the Horn of Africa. Nonaligned activities and preparations for the pending nonaligned ministerial meeting in Belgrade were particularly discussed.

President Boumediene stated the satisfaction with successful development of bilateral relations on the basis of agreements and directions set during the recent meetings of the two presidents.

BOUMEDIENE RECEIVES UK OFFICIAL FRANK JUDD

LD291857Y Algiers APS in French 1417 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Algiers; President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and president of the Council of the Revolution, today, Tuesday [as received] received Mr Frank Judd, minister of state in the foreign office.

The talks covered in particular the widening of cooperation between Algeria and Great Britain and international problems of interest to both sides, mainly the situation in northern Africa, the question of the Western Sahara, the problems of the Horn of Africa, the decolonization of southern Africa, the situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian question, as well as international economic relations, particularly those between the industrialized countries and the developing countries.

ASH-SHA'B COMMENTS ON U.S.-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES

LD291802Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Yet Another Maneuver"]

[Excerpts] It is difficult to believe the story that the Carter-Begin meeting has failed to reach agreement on the future of Israeli-Egyptian negotiations because of the extent of concessions which Tel Aviv is asked to make in order to achieve progress in these negotiations. This is because 30 years of Zionist existence in occupied Palestine have proved that Israel has no independent policy and that it is merely a tool that implements what Washington plans for it.

Therefore, how can we explain the pessimistic statements of Carter and Begin? There are several explanations:

1. The new situation is yet another maneuver in the chain of successive maneuvers to prepare the ground for imposing an imperialist settlement for the Arab problem. The price of such a settlement would be the liquidation of the Palestinian problem by absorbing the Palestinians in foreign entities. And so that the friends of the United States will not be embarrassed by the blatant U.S. bias, Washington harped on the tune that it failed to convince Begin to show some flexibility toward As-Sadat's initiative.

This means that Washington, as it pretends to be the honest and trustworthy umpire who is biased only in favor of right, is pushing the Arabs toward making more concessions to Israel by erasing the name of Palestine from the map and replacing it with that of Israel. Both Carter and Begin agree on this point--that no independent Palestinian state shall be established in Palestine.

2. The second explanation is that the fabrication of the U.S.-Israeli disagreement over the West Bank of Jordan and the Sinai settlements is aimed at distracting Arab attention from the central issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict and preoccupying it with side issues. Thus obviously the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon is part of the plan to obliterate the Palestinian problem and to preoccupy Arab and international opinion with new problems, such as the problem of Lebanon, the Zionist settlements in Sinai, and the question of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan and so forth, so that the essence of the problems is lost.

3. The third explanation is that imperialism wants to exploit the state of division which As-Sadat created in the Arab rank so as to obtain the maximum possible Arab concessions which would culminate in recognizing Israel normalizing Arab relations with it and finally close the dossier on the Palestinian problem.

Therefore, from the above we come to the conclusion that what happened in Washington was yet another step in the direction of enforcing an imperialist settlement in the area. If Washington was sincerely interested in the search for peace, it would have sufficed to issue its order to Tel Aviv to change its attitude and everything would change, since the United States has sufficient means of pressure to force Israel to comply with its will.

The question now is: Now that the game has been exposed and Tel Aviv has cut As-Sadat's initiative down to its real size, what will the Egyptian regime do? Will it give the Arab public opinion the excuse of Israeli intransigence so as to drop its demand for guaranteeing Palestinian rights and accept the return of a mutilated Sinai? Or will the sonswho has gone astray return to the right path after his experiment proved to be a failure?

However, the events of the 4 months since As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem have proved the soundness of the Algerian analysis that Israel is an expansionist and aggressive state that does not want peace but rather wants to grab land and that if given the choice between peace and land it will take the land and leave peace.

MONGOLIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR TALKS IN ALGIERS

LD252100Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Mr Bandzar, Mongolian deputy foreign minister, arrived in Algiers this afternoon at the head of an important delegation. He was welcomed at the airport by Idris al-Jazairi, assistant secretary in charge of the international cooperation section at the Foreign Ministry, and by a number of other senior ministry officials.

LIBYA

TALKS BEGIN BETWEEN JABIR, SFRY'S LJUBICIC

LD292100Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] This evening official talks began at their headquarters between the Arab Libyan general staff of armed forces and the Yugoslav military delegation, which is now on a visit to the Jamahiriyah. Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Arab Libyan armed forces, headed the Arab Libyan side and Gen Nikola Ljubicic, federal secretary for national defense, headed the Yugoslav. The talks were attended by the Yugoslav ambassador.

Earlier Brigadier Jabir received the federal secretary who is visiting the Jamahiriyah at the head of a military delegation.

TITO MESSAGE DELIVERED TO COLONEL AL-QADHDHAFI

LD300052Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary, received this morning at the Foreign Secretariat in Tripoli the ambassador of Yugoslavia in the Jamahiriyah. A JANA correspondent has learned that the Yugoslav ambassador handed the foreign secretary a message to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from President Tito of Yugoslavia.

AL-QADHDHAFI ATTENDS LIBYAN NAVAL EXERCISE

LD291510Y Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tobruk, 29 March, JANA--In the midst of the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people on the occasion of evicting the British forces that were controlling and oppressing the land of the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the supreme commander of the armed forces, accompanied by Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander-in-chief and Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, attended yesterday afternoon the naval exercise in the Mediterranean and which was launched from the Tobruk naval base. Modern missile boats, ocean-crossing submarines and vertical take-off jets took part in the exercise.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi boarded the submarine Fateh [as received] and stayed for four hours on its deck, viewing the exercises that were conducted, using missiles and artillery that hit their artificial targets. An air landing was carried out by air-force planes according to the set plan, despite the bad weather.

MAURITANIA

MOKHTAR OULD DADDAH ENDS BRIEF VISIT TO ZAIRE

LD242012Y Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Kinshasa--President Mokhtar Ould Daddah left Kinshasa today for home at the end of a short visit to Zaire. During his stay in Kinshasa, the Mauritanian president had talks with President Mobutu Sese Seko. The president of Zaire gave a dinner in the Mauritanian president's honor yesterday.

MOROCCO

M'HAMED BOUCETTA INTERVIEWED BY AL-JUMHURIYAH

NC3009447 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0758 GMT 30 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 March--In an exclusive interview published in today's issue of AL-JUMHURIYAH, Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta reaffirmed Morocco's support for President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative and Egypt's peace efforts.

Asked why Morocco did not act in connection with the Somali war, as it did in Zaire, the Moroccan minister said the two cases are different. He said Zaire was under the threat of communist invasion and it asked Morocco to intervene, whereas Somalia did not request Arab military intervention. Boucetta reaffirmed his country's policy against any communist invasion of Africa and against foreign theories, ideologies and arms.

Asked how the Moroccan Army's strength will be affected by the U.S. refusal to sell military aircraft to Morocco, Boucetta strongly denied that it will be affected. He said that the American planes were intended to be an addition, but they do not affect the Moroccan Army's strength or capabilities. He added: The United States has not refused to supply planes to Morocco. It just delayed the matter in view of the situation between Egypt and Israel and the pending aircraft deal with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Answering a question regarding the phosphate deal with the Soviet Union, he said that this was concluded on the basis of Morocco's trade interests and was concluded between two states, not between a bit power and a subservient state. He emphasized that the Soviets received no special concessions. This deal, he said, does not give the Soviets any political rights.

SUDAN

OMDURMAN: SECOND INSTALLMENT OF NUMAYRI INTERVIEW

LD291430Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Second of an unspecified number of installments of report on interview granted by Sudanese President Numayri to the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY]

[Summary] Asked to comment on reports that the national reconciliation did not embrace political groups opposed to the revolutionary regime, Numayri said that it covered all Sudanese, at home and abroad. "What the interviewer has in mind applies to no more than a handful of people, subversive communists. Concerning the method of establishing contact with them, Numayri said: We do not know them, but announcements had been made over the various information media. He said: We are not instituting a search for them, nor do we want to know where they are.

"Asked about a member of the Third People's Assembly who was one of our repatriated brothers and who is said to have resigned, the president said: The member referred to is 'Abd al-Majid Abu Hasab. [presumably the minister of information and justice in Muhammad Mahjub's government of 1968] He asked me to relieve him of his duties and decided to end his political life but affirmed his intention to work for national reconciliation."

NUMAYRI GETS MESSAGE FROM LIBYA'S AL-QADHDHAFI

LD292010Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] This afternoon President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received a message from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in response to a message which his excellency had earlier sent to the colonel. SUNA reports that the message stressed the need to deal with a current Arab situation and to face the Arab responsibility in a new spirit. The message was delivered by 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president of the republic and secretary general of the Sudanese Socialist Union.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

LD291738Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] This morning Dr Francis Deng, the minister of state for foreign affairs, received his excellency the U.S. ambassador. The meeting between the two dealt with the situation in the Horn of Africa following the withdrawal of Somalia from the Ogaden in light of earlier commitments by the foreign forces to withdraw from the region in the event that Somalia withdrew from the Ogaden. The meeting also discussed the situation in Eritrea and the efforts being made to find a peaceful solution to the Eritrean issue within the framework [words indistinct] the leader-president relating to positive dialog between Ethiopia and the Eritrean region.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO MEET 30 MARCH

NC291840Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 29 March--The Sudanese National Security Council will hold a meeting this Thursday morning under the chairmanship of First Vice President Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim. A number of important subjects will be discussed at the meeting.

OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY DENIES POLISARIO ANNOUNCEMENT

NC291930Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1857 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 29 March--A high-level Sudanese source has denied an announcement made by a POLISARIO front spokesman in Algiers last Monday that an OAU conference will be held at the end of next June to discuss the western desert issue. It is reported that radio London had quoted a front spokesman as saying that the convocation of the conference had been agreed upon in principle and that only final approval from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri remained.

TUNISIA

UK OFFICIAL FRANK JUDD ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD291858Y Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tunis--Mr Frank Judd, British minister of state in the foreign office, arrived in Tunis this afternoon on an official visiting lasting [passage indistinct].

Discusses Cooperation

LD300810Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Brahim Turki, secretary of state for foreign affairs, gave a banquet last night at Al-Maghribiyyah House in Carthage in honor of British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Frank Judd, who has been in our country since yesterday on an official visit.

During the banquet Brahim Turki and the British minister of state exchanged speeches touching on Tunisian-British relations, the problem of the Middle East and southern Africa and the need to maintain peace in the world. Several members of the government and the British ambassador to Tunisia attended the banquet. A working session was held between the Tunisian and British delegations during which relations between the two countries and the possibilities of various kinds of cooperation were discussed. Discussions also dealt with foreign trade; technical cooperation; questions of the hour concerning the two countries, in particular the situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian question; the problems of the Horn of Africa; the question of decolonization in southern Africa; the north-south dialog and relations between Tunisia and the EEC.

L'ACTION CALLS FOR SUPPORTING PALESTINIANS

LD300827Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 22 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Moncef Chihi article: "Palestinians Face Their Future Alone"]

[Text] The zeal with which the latest UN resolution, concerning the deployment of "blue berets" in southern Lebanon, has been implemented is surprising, to say the least. Scarcely had this resolution been voted than the procedure for applying it was already being discussed with the Lebanese leaders by the commander of the UN forces in the Near East. Yesterday afternoon General Siilasvuo made the arrival of his contingents conditional on a cease-fire. At the end of the afternoon Israel proclaimed the cease-fire. Such eagerness and so many provisions have been tragically lacking when it has come to implementing other UN resolutions vital for peace and security in the Near East and throughout the world.

The fact remains that UN responsibility is directly involved on the spot, at a time when attempts are being made to find an outcome to the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations with the help of the United States, where, in a tense atmosphere, Begin yesterday began his talks with President Carter. These talks have assumed greater significance since Israel occupied southern Lebanon, especially since only the United States has the means to dissuade the Zionist state from pursuing its adventurist undertaking in the Near East. But, knowing Begin's extremist views and his strange approach to the Palestinian problem, we remain skeptical about the results of the Israeli-American discussions.

The fact remains that the Palestinians must find in themselves the necessary willpower and energy to enable them to resolve the tragedy which they are experiencing, since they are accused of being "terrorists" when they carry out operations in the occupied territories. They cannot count on the sympathy of a knowingly conditioned world opinion when they are the victims of real genocide. Though assured of unequivocally firm moral and material support from the Arabs, they are learning to their cost that it is not always so short a step from intentions to acts as they had thought. All they have left to support them in their heroic struggle is their faith in the sacred cause which they are defending.

Despite its remoteness from the battlefield and its modest resources, Tunisia will always remain at their side, and more so than ever at this difficult time when they face their future alone. It will support them politically and materially to the limit of its capabilities.

WEIZMAN REPORTEDLY LEAVES FOR TALKS IN CAIRO

TA300908Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Mar 78 TA

[Text] An ITIM correspondent reports that the defense minister left this morning for Cairo on a Westwind aircraft of the Israeli Aircraft Industry. He did not fly from Ben-Gurion Airport. Journalists were not allowed to watch the takeoff and Defense Ministry officials refused to formally confirm the fact of his departure. Weizman will confer with the Egyptian president and war minister in Cairo today. Also taking part in the talks will be the government legal adviser [Aharon Baraq].

PERES REPLIES TO BEGIN STATEMENT IN KNESSET

TA291406Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0840 GMT 29 Mar 78 TA

[Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres statement following Prime Minister Menahem Begin's opening remarks in the Knesset--live]

[Text] Mr Chairman, honorable Knesset: Many of our citizens are following today's Knesset debate with feelings of deep anxiety for Israel's peace and wellbeing, for the unity of its people and for the freedom of its policy. This is an understandable anxiety. I am convinced, however, that Israel is steadfast in its desire for peace, that its people are united, even when democracy with all its alternatives is operating, and that it is precisely its unshaken independence which will force it to choose its own way, here in this house, and in broad daylight.

In a large or small war, we know how to unite. When our sons go to the battlefront in the south or in the north, there is no difference between a government man and an opposition man. There is a united people. When we go to seek peace, however, we are divided, if not in our intentions, at least in our ways.

I believe Menahem Begin wants peace just like everyone else, and that he wants peace more than anyone else: This is his formula. To my deep regret, however, I think his ancient and veteran ideological obligation, an ideology that did not predict the future, an ideology that did not take into account the current political circumstances, does not permit him to conduct the policy to which he aspires. It is incumbent upon us to tell the nation how the government's good intentions were changed into smaller political denominations, which are neither wise nor consistent. Why does the government-recommended path close the possibility of advancing toward the goal it wants to reach?

The prime minister claims that the United States took back its support for his peace plan. Less than a day later the deputy prime minister claims that the prime minister has fallen into the trap the United States has set for him. I do not intend to enter the debate as to who is correct. Nevertheless, it is clear that while we are accusing someone else, it is necessary to examine in this house what we can change. We are criticizing the government for its way; we are arguing with its policy.

The government has committed several serious sins, and this must be said here, and from an Israeli's mouth, not from the mouth of a foreigner. The present government has been revealed as a government which cannot predict the future. Not just what will be in 30 years, but what will be in 3 months. It has acted in a way that has damaged the credibility of the government domestically and abroad at an unbelievable speed and breadth. It developed an informational momentum which stressed its shortcomings, not its qualities, and it opened a wide and unnecessary front with the United States on the wrong subject and at the wrong time.

Mr Begin has visited the United States three times. The first time it seemed to him, and he may have been right, that he had captured world opinion and the hearts of leaders. The world press, as he has said, stopped talking about the PLO, I am quoting, and took up the Jewish people's historic right in Eretz Yisra'el. Mr Prime Minister, it seemed that you were wrong then; today it is clear that this was a mistake. You said, and thank God we have reached this, this is a very serious shift. Wrong. It seemed to Begin that Mr Carter and Mr Brzezinski had moved closer to his doctrine. I have read all of Jabotinsky's writings, with pleasure, but not with agreement. I think this is happening to others too.

He described his meetings very optimistically, saying that they were all very good. After the second visit he had another accident: he combined compliments with obligations. Before he had said grace after the meal, but he did not know that there was a need only to say grace before the meal. When the U.S. President told him that his plan was a fair basis for negotiations for peace, that was a significant achievement, and I am not dismissing it today; but the mistake, Mr Begin, is in that you took approval for obligation [play of words in Hebrew, hiyyuv and hithayvut]. You mistook a good foundation for an entire building; you mistook a negotiation for the seal on a bargain. This is a grave error.

It seemed to you that the entire world was discussing the Israeli plan--I am quoting you again--favorably and unfavorably, and you summed up the discussion thusly: Washington--affirmative; Moscow--negative. You were only 50 percent correct. Begin described a positive attitude, and I am not making light of it, as a magic tower, even if it leaned to the side, and he was caught in a premature feeling of exaltation. A prime minister must be a realist in his evaluations. He cannot sway between exaggerated optimism and premature pessimism. Stability must be the foundation for evaluating a situation. If the exaggeration harmed his estimates, then the lack of control over the government and its acts has damaged Israel's credibility and caused it serious and unimaginable harm. The best example of this is in the sphere of settlements.

There is hardly one place on the map, Mr Prime Minister, where the government you head did not add a mistake to an existing and established site. On the first evening with As-Sadat you talked of withdrawing the IDF from the Sinai. I can understand why you did not bring up that evening the issue of the settlements. However, As-Sadat gained an excellent position. Instead of talking about defensible borders, the government chose to talk about a settlement region, inviting all the arrows of criticism in the world against the settlements, the most beautiful enterprise that Israel has.

Ministers went to the settlers but did not use your language. You said that the IDF will leave the Sinai; they said that we are waiving sovereignty, and explained to the settlers and to the inhabitants that they would be like the rabbi in the woods on Sabbath: Sabbath to the right, Sabbath to the left, and they are in the middle.

While Israel finds it difficult to explain to its citizens and to world public opinion what exactly is proposed in the Sinai, bulldozers go down to Qidmat Sinai to build 15 commendable footholds. At this point--how did you put it--"the government became both muted and inconspicuous" [a pun in Hebrew] and no one knows who decided, no one knows what to say. It was not possible to get from the government either information or wisdom. Were such settlements indeed established? The answer was clear cut: yes and no. Who decided on their establishment, one minister? On his own merit? Yes and no.

Yes, because not the entire government decided; no, because the government declared that all the decisions were in accordance with its policies. Why was it necessary to setup these constructions? The reasons cannot be revealed. Why was it necessary to set them up precisely in Qidmat Sinai, which we are going to evacuate? See above reasoning. Since there is no reasoning, there is no explanation. Why did the government not reach conclusions from this? The answer is: When there is no reasoning, there are no conclusions. All this is published daily in the world press, exactly as if someone purposely wanted, and I am sure this is not the intention, to make Israel an object of mockery.

If mistakes are being made in the Sinai, why not repeat them in Judaea and Samaria? It is revealed that in Shilo it will be possible to find antiquities in several generations' time. A retrospective future. In order not to miss the chance, an archaeological delegation is hastily sent now, during negotiations, to seek the cornerstone, or the stone that 'Ezer wanted to remove from his way in the negotiation [a pun in Hebrew].

This is what the world was told, but they forgot to tell this to the settlers who rose innocently and told the world that antiques are nonexistent in Shilo, but new things can be found there. It is as if our nation was born in Helem [legendary town of fools] and not in Shilo.

Even this is not enough. The government reports on settlements in military camps, and if there are no camps, for the time being settlements are founded anyway. This way sheds the blood of Israeli credibility. There is no guiding hand, no one to stop it, or explain it; there is no one on whom to rely, no one who takes action. For no reason, to this day not one of you has explained why this has taken place. A tractor goes up, comes down, and Israel's fields are plowed by plows of noise and contradiction for the lack of a guiding hand or someone to explain. There is no one to give political reasons. There is a total lack of timing. The party that claimed everything could be explained has failed in the place where it felt itself the strongest.

Mr Chairman, members of the Likud argue that today a national consensus is needed, as if a national consensus is more important than the correct policy. They should reach the right conclusions, accept the opinion of the majority of the house, and not demand that the majority accept the minority opinion of the Herut Party, which does not involve a chance for peace or salvation for Israel to remain a country whose Jewish character is not threatened.

[Indistinct interjection from the floor]

[Peres] You know, Roni, because As-Sadat wanted peace for 30 years, and we wanted war. No. Is that what you want to hear from me? You know, you are a young man, but you should know history. You say that we accuse the government, while you are always blaming Israel for not wanting peace.

[MK Shulamit Alloni] King Solomon: "Answer not the fool according to his folly."

[Peres] In my opinion, 60 out of the 115 members of the Knesset--I am subtracting the members of the Communist Party--support a territorial compromise.

[Indistinct interjection from the floor]

[Peres] That is what you are demanding, not I. There is a basic and real argument in Israel over whether Israeli control of every place in Judaea and Samaria is desirable, if, for our reasons, not American or Arab reasons, for our democratic future and because of our desire for peace, we must return certain territories to Arab control. Mr Begin, and I respect him for this, stands firm on no foreign rule and no foreign sovereignty in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. However, the problem is that his fellow ministers stammer after him and usually think differently.

The deputy prime minister has claimed that Israel should be democratic and Jewish, and that if we remain in the territories, we either become Jewish and not democratic, or democratic and not Jewish. Thus we found ourselves in an unnecessary and incriminating discussion for Israel, without any hope and lacking any wisdom, of the issue of implementing 242 on Judaea and Samaria.

If it is true that 242 is a resolution that combines the English language and British fog, why should we deny that this fog, on whose coverage of the north and the south we have agreed, also covers the east? That would have been a national consensus. Has Shemu'el Tamir not violated this consensus? Has not the present government? It has violated it against the majority's opinion. Why has it violated it? Does such violation push forward the peace negotiations? No. There is only one reason, one justification--the Likud's platform. There is no other reason.

This is the age-old exclusive revisionist position, at work even before it knows what will take place. Now Mr Shemu'el Tamir demands a national solidarity or consensus. A national solidarity around what? Around the country? Around the land? Around the future? Around the majority in the Knesset? Certainly not. A national solidarity around the Herut platform. This is what your party has done. Why? Why shouldn't Herut join in a national solidarity with the majority? The problem is also that Mr Begin is not only leading, but is being led by reality and the situation in the government. He does not permit others to conduct their own policy, but neither do they permit him to conduct his own original policy.

His friends suggested to him, or perhaps he himself suggested, coming out with a declaration that everything is open for negotiation. Mr Fellow MK's, if everything is open for negotiation, who needs 242 at all? Then even Judaea and Samaria are open for negotiation. So why reject 242, why create an inexplicable contradiction in international logic? The foreign minister probably felt that this is too wide and too generous a definition, and added his own definition that if the Arabs propose the partition of Judaea and Samaria, we will discuss this favorably. If we are ready to discuss the partition of Judaea and Samaria, why reject 242? Why say that only because the Arabs suggest it? I can understand that we want to try the Arabs, but what if the Americans suggest this?

Resolution 242 in a U.S. formula--yes. You heard the declaration. The deputy prime minister did not find this enough either. He added that in the government's declaration of principles there is a readiness to accept 242. If this is so, why not say it simply, in Hebrew, not obliquely, not in a hint which clearly arouses resistance. Why, then, is there a need to argue with the U S. President, if this is the government's intention? If it is not the intention of the government, why does the deputy prime minister say it is? Why not say things clearly?

Why should they conduct an argument with us on all fronts instead of conducting an argument with the Egyptians on all the territories? Why give Rashi's [biblical commentator] interpretation without the original text? If the government indeed loves fogginess, as it claims, why do members of the government shine like morning rays, like early morning sunrays, to clear the fog that it tries to create? One of the ministers comes and says that we will not accept 242. How can we feel solidarity with the government when its own members do not feel solidarity with it?

The truth is that all the hopes many members of the government had that Mr Begin would leave his basic positions were dashed. I am not saying this as criticism. Mr Begin, who also hoped that the world would be convinced by his positions, has also found himself at fault. Those who hoped for a change were refuted.

[MK Ge'ula Kohen] Mr Peres, it is very easy for you today to raise the issue of the peace plan. However, you were not too enthusiastic about it, nor did you veto it, so you now have no right to talk. I and others have the right but not you.

[Peres] Because I can see that they are leading us in the wrong direction. Your direction, MK Ge'ula Kohen, which I respect, is simply erroneous. It does not lead any place, not even to the unity of the Likud. Why did it choose to fight the United States on 242? The subject that is less preferable, less suitable, and at the worst time and on the widest front?

[Unidentified MK] Mr Peres, what is your direction?

[Peres] I admit that in March 1978 the United States has no final position, and will not have one. It has a fixed attitude toward peace, but not a definite position regarding the geography and the subjects. It indeed believes that 242 should apply to all fronts, but not to all territories. The U.S. President, and I suggest that we also hear what he has to say on this matter, has said that the United States did not determine and does not intend to determine where the border in Judaea and Samaria will pass. The U.S. President, even before now, has said that he supports a total peace, including diplomatic relations, and rejects the establishment of a Palestinian state. He has rejected participation by the PLO and the demand for its participation. He supports, as the prime minister has said and which I think is of primary importance, the presence of the IDF in Judaea and Samaria for the first 5 years and for a period thereafter. The United States is not aiming for a separate peace, but neither is it ready, just as As-Sadat is probably not ready, to put the right of veto into the hands of Husayn alone.

Members of the Knesset, let us say simply that the issue of 242--I do not know if it will bring Husayn in--will allow us to end the conflict with As-Sadat. Even if we show a willingness to discuss a territorial compromise, perhaps Husayn will not change his position.

[Unidentified MK] MK Peres, on what basis do you state this fact?

[Peres] On the basis of reports I have heard from the government, on the basis of talks with the United States and other things.

[Unidentified MK] MK Peres, you are making allusions with these words.

[Peres] I will get to this in a moment. The U.S. President takes upon himself to continue and assist the safety of Israel.

[Unidentified MK] You were ready to withdraw from Judaea and Samaria, not only to declare this, and they did not talk with you.

[Peres] We have a discussion with the United States as well. The United States demands that we evacuate the settlements in the Rafah approaches, and we refuse, even though, I must say, that even in this demand from what is forbidden you may deduce what is permitted. This demand does not include the evacuation of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. The United States demands that Israel agree to a referendum in Judaea and Samaria. It seems to me that the house, the larger part of it, is not in favor of this, because the moment one says a referendum today, there is no intermediate period. The propaganda and the campaign immediately begin, because there is no possibility to ask the people when they are afraid to reply. In this matter, if we centered and concentrated the discussion on this issue alone I believe our situation would have been better.

[MK Me'ir Pa'il] One moment, one moment, one moment. Would you agree to free election there? Not a referendum.

[Peres] We are also in favor of bringing Jordan into the picture.

[Pa'il] Would you agree to hold free elections there? Free elections in the West Bank? Would you agree to that?

[Peres] You know, Me'ir Pa'il, the moment the PLO disappears, I will be in favor of free elections.

[Pa'il] Leave the PLO alone for a minute.

[Peres] Leave it! It does not leave us!

[Pa'il] In principle, do you agree to free elections?

[Peres] There will be a tragedy if relations between Israel and the United States are hurt.

[Unidentified MK] You are leaving the PLO alone, but I am not leaving you, Me'ir Pa'il.

[Pa'il] In these matters you are exactly like Menahem Begin.

[Unidentified MK] Me'ir Pa'il, it is advisable that you too leave the PLO.

[Peres] I do not want to say who you are like, everyone is like himself, and don't make comparisons.

[Indistinct interjection]

[Peres] It will be a tragedy for the United States because Israel is the most loyal, democratic and reliable ally it has, and many nations in the world will judge how it acts toward Israel. It will be difficult for Israel, because we need the friendship, the sympathy and the help of the United States. It will be a tragedy for peace, for without an understanding between the United States and Israel peace will not prevail.

Mr Prime Minister, if it is true that President as-Sadat wanted to drive a wedge into the network of Israeli-U.S. relationships, why lend him a hand? For what purpose?

Mr Chairman, Israel must decide, decide for itself, for Israeli reasons, and peace is an Israeli interest--the Jewish character of Israel is our national interest. In my opinion peace cannot be reached without an Israeli declaration of readiness for compromise in Judaea and Samaria. One cannot run away from it. Everyone asks us what the Alinement offers. The Alinement specifically suggests, for the future of Israel, not for U.S. or Arab reasons, to say that we are ready to discuss a territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria.

[Unidentified MK] Is there anyone who is ready to discuss this with you?

[Peres] This government is not ready to say this. This is the argument. Mr Begin has to [words indistinct] 242 was accepted by the United States and we have rejected it.

[MK Nissim] You have been saying this for 10 years, yet no one talks to you.

[Chairman] MK's I would request you not to [words indistinct].

[Peres] Mr Begin has to decide [words indistinct] that the interpretation of 242, in the Israeli sense, is a territorial compromise--I am answering you--and on this the discussion is with the United States.

[Unidentified MK] This has no ground. A territorial compromise totally contradicts 242.

[Peres] What would you like me to tell you?

[Nissim] [Words indistinct] is acceptable to the United States, or not?

[Peres] Territorial compromise--the mere declaration, Minister Nissim, you asked--you want an answer. If Israel agrees to 242 and will agree to declare for a territorial compromise, in my opinion, the negotiations with As-Sadat will make great progress.

[Nissim] That will only be one step toward the return to the 1967 lines.

[Peres] Gentlemen, I cannot deal with everyone at the same time.

[Unidentified MK] MK Nissim, would you behave like a minister? Would you behave like a minister?

[Peres] MK's, we tell the nation simply, there are many arguments, but this is the heart of the discussion. This is the hour of decision, and there is no choice. There is the Likud way, which Mr Begin represents justly, and his comrades try to sway him and occlude the others for no reason, but without success. We must answer yes or no to 242. The fact is that several members will wake up one morning and say that we have missed the chance, thanks in some measure to their efforts now. It is necessary to decide now. I am not saying it will solve everything. I am saying that this will bring progress, will remove a central stumbling block in the negotiations for peace and will relieve Israel from the image it has portrayed of itself.

It is said that Ben-Gurion established the state, and that Begin will establish peace. The first thing is true, but Ben-Gurion took a daring decision on the partition, in contrast with your opinion. He had the courage to see things as they are, to make a decision, to tell the people....

[Indistinct interjection]

[Peres] I am of the same opinion as you, Yig'al. I have the courage to say that you do not comprehend the situation. Why do you think that I am in favor of 1967? I am against returning to 1967. I am in favor of defensible borders. I have not changed my mind. I am also in favor of 242. Why does this mean that I have changed my mind?

[Several indistinct interjections]

[Peres] We will never find salvation in verbiage and wisecracks.

[Unidentified MK] [Words indistinct] and according to this for 10 years there were no negotiations.

[Peres] This is a time for negotiations for the Israeli nation, and it is a time for decision by the Knesset. Everyone must stand up in courage, and not hide behind psychological and propaganda-type reasoning, and tell us and the world things which are not unreasonable. We must say the truth, now, and with courage. Mr Chairman we are not today proposing no-confidence.... [interrupted from the floor]

[Chairman] Let MK Peres....

[Peres] We shall deal with this at a later stage, when we meet Husayn, not you, Ehud.

[Indistinct interjection]

[Peres] Mr Chairman, this time we have not proposed no-confidence, even though we have no confidence in this government. The reason why we did not propose no-confidence....

[Indistinct interjection]

[Peres] Mr Chairman, we did not propose no-confidence for the following reason: The prime minister of Israel was invited by the U.S. President. This invitation must have had some logic and a multitude of reasons from the U.S. side. In my opinion it did not stand trial. We cannot express no-confidence in the government, considering what took place in the United States. This is not a matter of no-confidence.

The way the government is going will, however, lead us into constant confrontation, first of all with ourselves, with our needs, with our friends in the United States and with the desire for peace--which I do not doubt--that we want to change from desire to reality.

BEGIN, DAYAN SPEAK AS KNESSET DEBATE CONCLUDES

TA291650Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Began this evening called on the nation in Israel to continue to make efforts in the belief that we will gain a peace treaty. Summing up the debate in the Knesset on the political statement he made this morning, Mr Begin declared: We will yet see other days. We will not despair of the chance for peace.

Replying to attacks by the opposition, he said that it had not proposed a new way. The opposition's way had been tried for many years and had not led to peace agreements. To the Alinement, he claimed that the concession he was proposing in Sinai had proved that the current cabinet really wants peace, but the difficulty springs from the positions of the Arab countries. Not only the extremist Al-Asad, but also Husayn, who has been called moderate, is waiting for Israel to give Egypt agreement on a comprehensive withdrawal on all sectors and a complete concession on the Palestinian issue. Negotiations between states are generally complicated, Mr Begin said, and recalled that Britain had required 9 years to come to an agreement with the European Common Market. The direct negotiations between Mr Begin and President as-Sadat had been conducted, in fact, for only 3 days and he cannot yet give all the results the opposition is demanding.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan spoke before the prime minister and recalled that in 1972 the cabinet announced that the Gaza Strip had to remain under Israeli control. This decision has not changed. In an argument with Shim'on Peres, the foreign minister said that we had laid down only two principles on the question of the negotiations: the basis for the negotiations with the Arab countries is the Security Council resolutions; and everything is to be discussed without prior conditions. In reply to complaints regarding the application of 242 to Judaea and Samaria, Dayan said: Are we now negotiating over Judaea and Samaria? Are we now sitting down with Jordan and the Palestinians? He explained that the Americans understand that it is impossible now to talk with the inhabitants of the territories on the basis of 242, since the reference there is to borders and these are subjects to be discussed with a country and not with the inhabitants.

At the end of the remarks by the prime minister and the foreign minister, the Knesset voted on Mr Begin's announcement and, with a majority of coalition votes, took note of the announcement. There were 64 members of Knesset who supported the cabinet; 32 voted against. Among the nine who abstained, there were seven DMC members, who are in the coalition; MK Ge'ula Kohen from the Likud and MK Yizhaq Navon. Ge'ula Kohen reported to the press that she was opposed to Mr Begin's peace program, but had not voted against the prime minister's statement in order not to weaken the cabinet. MK Navon abstained from voting because of his having submitted his candidacy for the presidency of the state. Amendment proposals submitted by most of the opposition factions were all rejected.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 29 March reports: "We will make a correction of a certain error in the report on the political debate. It appears that there were eight abstainers, six DMC members of Knesset, MK Ge'ula Kohen and MK Hausner also abstained."]

U.S PREFERS TO IGNORE FLEXIBILITY IN BEGIN'S REMARKS

TA291423Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Text] In the talks Prime Minister Begin held with President Carter last week Mr Begin alluded to the government's readiness to delay acts of settlement in Judaea and Samaria for the time being, as long as active negotiations are being held with Egypt.

In reaction to Carter's position on the matter of settlements, Mr Begin emphasized that Jews have a right to settle in Judaea and Samaria, but that the timing of carrying out this right depends on the government's decisions. Begin avoided declaring to Carter agreement to halt the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, but, according to people who participated in the talks, the prime minister's remarks included a clear hint that as long as active negotiations are being conducted the government will avoid establishing new settlements (except for two settlements decided on about 2 months ago).

As regards settlements in Sinai, Mr Begin clearly said that no new settlements will be set up but that the land put at the disposal of the existing settlements will be increased.

Government sources claimed yesterday that the phraseology used by Mr Begin on the issue of settlements reflected clear flexibility but the U.S. administration prefers to ignore this and describes the prime minister's positions in tough and negative terms.

BEGIN PROPOSES ISRAEL-EGYPT NUCLEAR POWER STATION

TA291609Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[By Yosef Peri'el]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin said that Israel is interested in setting up in the Sinai a joint Israeli-Egyptian nuclear reactor for generating electricity even before a peace agreement is achieved betweenthe parties.

The prime minister said this in a closed meeting in reply to a question from the president of the U.S. Westinghouse Company, Robert Kirby. Westinghouse has an agreement with Israel regarding the sale of a nuclear reactor for generating electricity.

Kirby is a member of the group that arrived in Israel in the framework of the "200-Life" Organization. He promised Begin that when the group reaches Egypt he will present Israel's proposal to As-Sadat and will try to convey As-Sadat's reply as soon as possible."

During his visit to Israel Kirby held a meeting with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yizhaq Moda'i. In this meeting too, the subject of setting up a joint nuclear reactor with Egypt was raised. Moda'i suggested that a 4-unit nuclear reactor for generating electricity in both countries be built in the Sinai, and that most of the investment in the project be American, according to the bilateral commitments given by President Nixon during his visit to Egypt and Israel a few years ago.

REACTION TO REPORTED INTENTION TO APPOINT SUPERMINISTER

Horowitz Comments

TA291704Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 29 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Yig'al Horowitz today reacted to the report published yesterday that he will be appointed to the post of superminister on economic affairs. He said: I know nothing about the intention to appoint a superminister on economic affairs. I heard about this for the first time from the press. Minister Horowitz added that, in fact, there is already a superminister for economic affairs in the minister of finance. However, Minister Horowitz expressed his desire for greater coordination between the economic ministries.

Tension in Likud

TA291537Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Zevi Timor]

[Text] We will not be able to agree to a government structure in which there will be two kinds of ministers, senior and junior ministers. This was the reaction yesterday of the ministers of the Liberal Party to the plan to appoint a superminister of economic affairs.

These circles ascribed the plan to the prime minister's desire to teach the Liberal Party a lesson for daring to propose a candidate of its own for the post of the presidency. The prime minister's adviser said yesterday that such a plan was not discussed in any forum. [paragraph continues]

Nevertheless, he avoided saying whether the prime minister intends to make such a proposal. Our correspondent learned that Mr Begin also informed Minister Ehrlich about the proposal in a talk they had in a tense atmosphere. Mr Begin also mentioned in the talk that the Knesset members of the Liberal Party were elected mainly thanks to the votes given to the Herut Party, while the traditional Liberal Party voters voted for the DMC.

It was also learned that in the light of these grave developments and the maneuvers regarding the presidential elections carried out by these two flanks of the Likud against each other, a most tense atmosphere prevails between the prime minister and the finance minister.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER ON AIRCRAFT ROLE IN S. LEBANON

TA291720Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Mar 78 p 3 TA

[By Arye Avneri]

[Text] "The air force possesses more sophisticated instruments for precision and accuracy than ever before, as shown by photographs taken at the places it recently attacked in Lebanon." This was said by the air force commander, Maj Gen David 'Ivri, in an interview published in the AIR FORCE JOURNAL today.

The issue of the journal, edited by Moshe Hadar, is a special summing up the campaign in Lebanon. It follows the lines of "The Battle Issues" of the journal published during the 6-day war and the Yom Kippur war.

Among other things, Major General 'Ivri said that the air force was given a clear order to avoid harming civilians at all costs and this is what it actually did. "There were instances of Strela missiles (shoulder-launched antiaircraft missiles) [name and description as published] or antiaircraft fire being directed against us from specific houses but we refrained from attacking them when it was feared that there were still civilians inside," he said.

The air force commander also said that "there were several places we did not attack although antiaircraft fire was directed at us from them for fear that the fire came from Syrian sources with which we did not want to get involved."

Asked whether the air force deviated from the framework of the agreement with the United States in using the F-15 in southern Lebanon, Major General 'Ivri said: "I would say clearly--we did not violate any clause of the agreement. We used the aircraft for aerial defense for our forces. It served as an air cover and this is no violation since it fulfilled a purely defensive function. The plane neither fired a single shot, nor launched a single missile nor was it used for attack."

The air force commander also disclosed that all types of aircraft possessed by the air force were used in this campaign: fighters, transports, reconnaissance and communications planes and helicopters. Each kind had a different task to perform.

SYRIA SEEN MOVING AWAY FROM REJECTIONISTS, TOWARD EGYPT

TA300933Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 30 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] In the last few days Syria has been showing an inclination to break away from the Arab rejectionist front and join As-Sadat's peace initiative, with the aim of directing Egypt toward a Geneva conference. This is the conclusion drawn from reports which have arrived recently in Jerusalem.

According to these estimates, Al-Asad wants to persuade As-Sadat to restrain the negotiations he is holding with Israel, although not to bring them to a total halt, and join him in a peace initiative that will seek to reach an agreement with Israel within the framework of a Geneva conference.

If these reports are true, the Syrian move might make it easier for Jordan to join the negotiations, according to estimates yesterday in Jerusalem.

The HA'AREZ correspondent said that in the last few days Al-Asad has been cleaning up his government and his army, which might have some connection to the above reports.

SOUTH LEBANESE REPORTEDLY SHUN HADDAD'S 'ARMY'

TA290815Y Jerusalem POST in English 29 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Anan Safadi]

[Excerpts] South Lebanon--Moslem villagers who came under Israel's control following the recent IDF action of the Litani River said yesterday that they have no intention of joining the projective semi-autonomous south Lebanese army whose creation was procalimed by Maj Sa'ad Haddad, commander of the former border Christian enclaves.

In wide-ranging interviews, the Moslems charged Major Haddad and his militiamen of exploiting their protection by Israel to impose their own rule and of coercing a number of village mukhtars into recruiting their young men in a local army under Haddad's command.

The south Lebanese Moslems, who constitute 70 percent of the population in their region, said they see no alternative to the continued authority of the Israel Defence Forces except for an unequivocal restoration of the Lebanese state authority and reinstatement of the Lebanese state army there.

Moslem spokesmen claimed that their view is shared by neighboring Christian villagers who were reportedly unhappy with Major Haddad's attempts to promote his own "mini-state."

Major Haddad's orders to open recruitment offices yesterday for the formation of a southern Lebanese army--to take over administration in the region--have gone unheeded.

Haddad told the Jerusalem POST that 30 villagers enlisted on the first day yesterday, although his claim could not be confirmed either by Lebanese villagers or Israeli observers in the area.

Moslem villagers, in particular, said they had no intention of subjecting their young to the command of Major Haddad, whose militiamen they accused of having ransacked their homes and taken the law into their own hands, while Israeli troops were busy chasing PLO forces across the Litani River.

An apparent fear of a takeover by Haddad was reflected yesterday by the fact that some of the refugees returning home were collecting their belongings and going back north. Local sources said that other refugees were taking advantage of Israel's call for their return to check on their homes but to turn back for refuge again.

Many refugees were indeed seen driving back home across the Litani against the backdrop of an obvious uncertainty. Some found their homes intact, some saw theirs razed and others walked into ghost villages. Estimates of the refugees who fled south Lebanon range between 60,000 and 150,000.

The entire region was quiet yesterday--or rather silent. There was no sign of violence anywhere inside south Lebanon. This was in contrast to terrorist claims about "fighting behind enemy lines" or to foreign news stories about their waging "a Vietnam-type war of attrition.

TERRORISTS IN LEBANON SAID TO FEAR IDF ATTACK

TA292233Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2150 GMT 29 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The terrorists are moving their arms stores from the area of Sidon, in the south, to the surroundings of Beirut for fear of an Israeli attack. This is reported by the Christian radio. Mikha'el Gurdus, our monitor, picked up a broadcast saying that the IDF today uncovered, in the area of Tyre, one of the biggest of the underground arms stores of the terrorists.

GALILEE ARABS COMPENSATED FOR EXPROPRIATED LANDS

TA300628Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Israel's Land Administration has reached agreements with about half of the Galilee Arabs whose lands were expropriated 2 years ago. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the Land Administration has paid compensation totalling 140 million Israeli pounds to the landowners. In addition, other lands were given in return and some landowners were compensated by getting licenses for taxis or gasoline stations. Over the last 2 years, thousands of building lots have been put at the disposal of young couples and discharged soldiers in the Galilee villages.

GENERAL QUIET PREVAILS ON 'LAND DAY'

TA300927Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Quiet prevailed in the triangle villages this morning and there were no grave disruptions. Only in Umm El Fahm were there slight disruptions in studies this morning. Some students left their classes trying to persuade their friends to join them. The head of the council and his deputy put things back in order. In Et Taiyiba, a local list withdrew from the coalition headed by RAKAH as a protest against the fact that the head of the council did not lay sufficient emphasis on Land Day.

PEACE VIGIL MOUNTED OUTSIDE BEGIN'S HOUSE

TA290730Y Jerusalem POST in English 29 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Members of the Movement for a Different Zionism were in their third day of dawn-to-dusk protest vigil outside the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem yesterday. Picketers carried signs which read "Peace Has Its Price," "The Next War--Was It Necessary?" "Peace Is Preferable To Greater Israel" and "Begin--We're Worried," among other slogans.

One demonstrator said Premier Menahem Begin had peeked out at them once or twice, but had not come out to talk to them or otherwise acknowledged their presence. The picketers, who are demonstrating in shifts through the end of the week, seldom number more than a dozen at any one time.

The Movement for a Different Zionism, which its leaders say numbers about 1,000 dues-paying members, was established after the elections last May. Its members do not belong to any political party.

Some of the signers of last month's protest letter from reserve army officers to Premier Begin held a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday and announced a campaign "to change the Israel Government's order of priorities, and Menahem Begin's first of all." The officers had appealed to Begin in their letter to choose peace over territories.

One of the writers of the letter, Omri Padan, said 10,000 people have now signed the letter--950 of them reserve officers with ranks up to sgan-aluf (lieutenant colonel).

The group will sponsor a rally on Saturday night in Tel Aviv's Kikar Malkhey Yisra'el. The Movement for a Different Zionism said last night its members would attend.

WEIZMAN FAVORED FOR PREMIERSHIP IN PUBLIC POLL

TA291522Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 78 p 3 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is the preferred candidate for premiership "if Prime Minister Begin is for some reason unable to continue his duties." This is clear from the public opinion poll conducted by the Pori Institute at the request of HA'AREZ.

Some 1,200 men and women from age 18 up, who constitute a representative sample of the entire Jewish adult population, were asked who they would like to see as prime minister if Mr Begin for some reason is unable to continue in his job. The people questioned were not presented with a list of names and they could choose the candidate they considered suitable.

Of the 1,200, 19.4 percent made Mr Weizman their first choice. Mr Shim'on Peres took second place (13.8 percent) and Moshe Dayan took third place (9 percent). Professor Yadin was fourth (5.8 percent), Yizhaq Rabin fifth (4.3 percent) and Ari'el Sharon sixth (2.5 percent).

Pori director, Refa'el Gil, remarks that 41.1 of all those participating in the poll said that "they do not know" who can replace Mr Begin.

JERUSALEM DENIES DIPLOMATIC TIES ESTABLISHED WITH SPAIN

TA282236Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 28 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Israel and Spain did not sign a consular agreement. This was said this evening by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in reply to a question from our political correspondent. A Spanish paper reported today that Minister Horowitz visited Madrid and signed a secret agreement on the maintenance of consular ties between the two countries. Our correspondent says that a few weeks ago, after the Libyan ruler had declared that the Canary Islands should be given independence, a Spanish leader said that Madrid would react by establishing ties with Israel.

However, it was said in Jerusalem today that no progress has been made lately despite Israel's declared desire to establish relations with Spain.

INDIA

DESAI MEETS WITH ROK PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

BK300826Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The visiting parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Korea called on the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, in New Delhi yesterday. It also called on the minister for labor and parliamentary affairs, Mr Ravindra Varma.

Bilateral relations and measures to strengthen mutual cooperation were discussed.

Speaking at a dinner given by the ambassador of the Republic of Korea in honor of the visiting delegation, the speaker of the National Assembly of the Korean republic, Mr Kwon-Chung, and the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Hegde, emphasized the need for closer contacts between the people's representatives of the two countries.

VAJPAYEE: INDIA SUPPORTS ASEAN, ZONE OF PEACE

BK300818Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, has said that there is a new climate of hope today in South and Southeast Asia where new avenues of cooperation are opening up. Mr Atal Bihart Vajpayee was speaking at a dinner hosted by him in honor of the visiting Malaysian foreign minister, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, in New Delhi last night.

Mr Vajpayee said that India does not regard regionalism in any way contradictory to nationalism or internationalism. He said India has extended its full support to the ASEAN, which it regarded as a genuine and legitimate manifestation of the common urge of neighboring states to come closer to each other. This is why India always supports the concept of zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia, he added.

AFP: CURFEW PLACED ON SAMBHAL TOWNSHIP

OW292012Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1935 GMT 29 Mar 78 OW

[Text] New Delhi, Mar 29 (AFP)--Sambhal township in Uttar Pradesh state, northern India, was placed under curfew today following violent clashes between two countries. [as received]

Reports did not identify the rival factions but they are believed to be Hindus and Moslems.

About a dozen people were injured in the incidents in which knives and country-made firearms were used by the clashing groups to attack each other. Some shops were also set on fire.

PAKISTAN

BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES EXTENDED INDEFINITELY

BK291529Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The chief of staff of the army and chief martial law administrator issued Martial Law Regulation No 35 in Rawalpindi today amending Martial Law Regulation No 33 to extend the ban on political activities in the country beyond 31 March. Under Martial Law Regulation No 33, issued on 28 February, a ban was placed on all types of political activities for 1 month beginning 1 March.

The new martial law regulation states that the words "until 31 March 1978" in paragraph 3 of Martial Law Regulation No 33 have been withdrawn and these words will be considered perranently withdrawn.

SRI LANKA

AFP: STUDENTS STRIKE; POLICE RAID COLOMBO CAMPUS

BK291413Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 29 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Colombo March 29 (AFP)--Police were today patrolling the vicinity of the Colombo campus of the Sri Lanka University following student unrest there.

More than 500 policemen participated in a dawn swoop on the campus during which they made a thorough search of the premises for weapons and firearms.

This followed information received by the police of alleged plans by a section of students on strike since yesterday to attack the non-strikers.

Police later said no weapons or firearms were found, but they seized posters, placards and other propaganda literature against the government's decision to withdraw the subsidy on rice from the upper-income earners.

Police also found on the premises some people whose bona-fides were being checked. Among them were two women whom the police described as "twilight ladies."

Students and parents gathered outside the campus premises later as police conducted their patrols on streets surrounding the institution.

This is the second university campus to be raided by the police within the past ten days.

On March 21 police conducted a similar search of the Vidyodaya campus about 15 miles from Colombo.

While no lectures have been held in some university campuses during the past several days because of student unrest, the education minister, Mr Nissanka Wijeratne has announced that he will scrap the existing residential university scheme and introduce university education reforms soon.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN FISHING FLEETS--Sri Lanka is opening up its territorial waters to foreign fishing fleets in an effort to provide cheaper fish to local consumers, the minister of fisheries, Mr Festus Perera, disclosed yesterday. But he emphasised that foreign fleets may operate only in deep sea areas. An off shore limit of 25 miles is being strictly reserved for local fishermen, he said. Already three contracts have been signed with Honk Kong, Singapore and Japanese based companies enabling their ships to exploit Sri Lanka's deep sea fisheries potential, the minister said. In return for the right to fish in these waters, the companies are required to sell 40 percent of their catch to Sri Lanka. Payment for this fish will be made in Sri Lanka repuees at agreed rates, and Sri Lanka will take only those varieties of fish popular with the local consumer. In addition to making 40 percent of their catch available to Sri Lanka, the foreign companies must also pay the government a royalty for the balance catch they are free to dispose as they wish. [sentence as published] [Excerpt] [Colombo THE SUNDAY OBSERVER in English 26 Mar 78 p 1 BK]

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